



The County Observer

Roanoke County Police Department Crime Prevention Newsletter

Crime Prevention Is Linked With Solving Social Problems

CRIME PREVENTION GOES BENEATH THE SURFACE SYMPTOMS OF CRIME, ADDRESSING UNDERLYING FACTORS AND THEIR EFFECT ON CRIME. PROBLEMS SUCH AS ILLEGAL DRUG USE AND TRAFFICKING, ILLITERACY, UNEMPLOYMENT, LACK OF EDUCATION, AND THE COMMUNITY'S PHYSICAL CONDITION MUST BE CONSIDERED AND TREATED IN THE PURSUIT OF CRIME PREVENTION.

Miami-Dade County's Summer Refugee Youth Program, now in its sixth year, provides at-risk Cuban refugee youth ages 11-18 with emotional and therapeutic support, gang and drug prevention activities, academic help, and safe recreational activities throughout the summer months. Funded by Florida's Department of Children and Family Services and operated by Miami-Dade County's Office of Youth and Family Development Refugee Services, this unique summer camp experience is provided free of charge to refugee families. Studies show that participating youth improved social and academic skills, resulting in positive behavior changes.

The ADT AWARE program, which stands for Abused Women's Active Response Emergency, is designed to offer protection and peace of mind to domestic violence victims. The program is a coordinated effort among ADT Security Services, local law

enforcement agencies, prosecutor's offices, and battered women's shelters. After participants are selected for the program, ADT donates and installs electronic security systems in their homes. The systems include a hold-up alarm pendant, which can be worn or carried with the victim while in the home. In the event of an imminent attack, the victim can press the button on the pendant and send an immediate silent alarm to ADT, which in turn notifies the appropriate police agency. ADT donates the equipment, installation, and monitoring of the AWARE systems so there is no charge to either the victims or community. For more information, contact adtpr@adt.com.

Editor's Note: From the National Crime Prevention Council-Monthly Action Kit.

BURGLARIES

The following burglaries were reported to the Roanoke County Police Department during the months of January, February, and March.

District one had one residential burglary in the 8100 block of Olsen Road, one residential burglary in the 5500 block of Wipledale Avenue, one business burglary in the 5300 block of Peters Creek Road, a business burglary in the 7000 block of Peters Creek Road, and one business burglary in the 6500 block of Thirlane Road.

District two had one residential burglary in the 8100 block of Plantation Road, two residential burglaries in the 5300 block of Hawthorne Road, one residential burglary in the 900 block of Peyton Street, one business burglary in the 7300 block of Plantation Road, one business burglary in the 6300 block of Williamson Road, and one business burglary in the 6400 block of Williamson Road.

District three had one residential burglary in the 3600 block of Pitzer Road, one residential burglary in the 3000 block of Pitzer Road, one residential burglary in the 3400 block of Glen Rock Lane, and one residential burglary in the 3400 block of Pitzer Road.

District four had one business burglary in the 5000 block of Benois Road, one residential burglary in the 5200 block of Crossbow Circle, and one residential burglary in the 200 block of Stonebridge Drive.

District five had one residential burglary in the 4100 block of Cresthill Drive, two business burglaries in the 3900 block of Brambleton Avenue, one business burglary in the 3100 block of Brambleton Avenue, one business burglary in the 3300 block of Brambleton Avenue, one business burglary in the 2700 block of Electric Road, one business burglary in the 5400 block of Starkey Road, and one business

burglary in the 4200 block of Colonial Avenue.

District six had one residential burglary in the 5700 block of McSpetz Lane, one residential burglary in the 3100 block of Berry Lane, one residential burglary in the 6400 block of Poage Valley Road Extension, one residential burglary in the 9100 block of Patterson Drive, one residential burglary in the 7100 block of Bent Mountain Road, one business burglary in the 9400 block of Airpointe Drive, and one business burglary in the 5400 block of Springlawn Avenue.

District seven had one residential burglary in the 6000 block of Twine Hollow Road, one residential burglary in the 2600 block of Stanford Drive, one residential burglary in the 6900 block of Campbell Drive, one residential burglary in the 6000 block of Harwick Drive, one residential burglary in the 6100 block of Dry Hollow Road, one residential burglary in the 5800 block of Valleypointe Avenue, one business burglary in the 3100 block of West Main Street, and one business burglary in the 3600 block of West Main Street.

District eight had one residential burglary in the 3500 block of Sherwood Road, one residential burglary in the 8100 block of Bradshaw Road, one residential burglary in the 3800 block of Shawnee Trail, one residential burglary in the 3600 block of Carvins Cove Road, and one residential burglary in the 2500 block of Loch Haven Drive.

District nine had one residential burglary in the 200 block of Laurel Hill Drive.

CRIME PREVENTION THEME

Each year the Crime Prevention Office comes up with a theme for

its crime prevention talks. This year the theme will be "Crime Prevention Through Family Unity." I feel that if this principle is considered, much of the petty crimes would take care of themselves.

Last year I started asking Neighborhood Watch groups that if I asked them to go and physically touch their children, could they do it? I went farther to tell them to consider not where they are supposed to be, but where they really are. Many of the parents looked at each other and told me that after school their children's curfew wasn't until 9:00 PM. I found this to be somewhat surprising.

Family unity is very important because most child abductions are seductions. This does not mean that your children are neglected but how they perceive their life. If you don't keep up with your kid's lives and fill the void that they feel inside, someone out there will. Also, it is very difficult to destroy property or get into trouble if you are beside them.

Spend time with your children and give them a reason to stay at home with the family. Don't lose any more valuable time, get to know your family and build family relationships today.

SPRING LANDSCAPING

Spring is the time of year when many people set out to improve their homes and property. When getting ready to do landscaping remember a few key points:

- Consider natural surveillance which utilizes design features to increase the visibility of a property or a building. Features that maximize the visibility of people, parking areas, and

building entrances include unobstructed doors and windows, pedestrian friendly sidewalks and streets, front porches and appropriate night time lighting.

- Keep shrubs trimmed to a maximum of three feet, or at least below windowsills. Also trim shrubs up about a foot from the ground so that people cannot lie down and hide behind them.
- Trim trees up to seven feet so that you have an unobstructed view of your residence from the street.
- Keep your landscaping thinned out and not cluttered for better visibility.

CPA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Roanoke County Police Department has a new program up and running. The program is called the Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association. This program is set up for Citizen Police Academy graduates and was created to continue the relationship long after their classes have finished. This program allows the participants to volunteer in various aspects of the Department and participate in Department sponsored activities. There is an average of 60 to 70 members so far and we hope to have this number continue to grow. The Alumni meet on the fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Roanoke County Police Department.

TRASH CAN THEFTS

Recently there have been a series of trash cans stolen across Roanoke County. There have

been approximately fifty trash cans stolen over the past month. There are no suspects and no reason known for the trash can thefts. In order to prevent your trash can from being stolen, we suggest a couple of strategies.

- Take in your trash can the evening after the trash is picked up and don't place your trash can out on the street earlier than the night before trash pick up.
- Do not place your personal information on the trash can but do spray paint your address on the can because the cans are assigned to the address.
- Make sure to shred all of your paperwork with personal information rather than simply throw it out because we do not know if the trash cans are being stolen before or after trash pick up.

VACATION PLANS

This spring many people will be going off on vacations. Before you leave whether for a few days or a few weeks, remember the following.

- Avoid discussing your vacation plans in public.
- Set automatic timers for indoor lights and a radio on a talk station.
- Turn the telephone ring to low.
- Get someone to mow your lawn, take in the mail, newspapers and circulars.

- Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway occasionally.
- Lock all doors, including your garage interior door, and all outbuildings.
- Leave keys with a neighbor. Do not hide extra keys outside.
- Notify the police of your vacation plans so that they can place you on a vacation check sheet. Remember to call the police when you return. You can call the Crime Prevention Office at 561-8062 to request a vacation check.

CONGRATULATIONS

Since the next newsletter will not be coming out until the middle of June, the Roanoke County Police Department would like to congratulate all the College and High School Seniors graduating in May and June. During this joyous time, each year there are several things that we would like for each of you to remember to help prevent an unnecessary tragedy from occurring.

Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for teenagers.

Alcohol-related car crashes are the number one killer of teenagers in the United States.

Alcohol is the number one drug problem in America.

If you think that it can't happen to you, look around. Check your school's yearbooks for the last ten years. Notice how many were dedicated to a student who was killed in an alcohol related crash. Ask your friends how many people they know who have had bad

things happen to them when they or someone they knew was drinking. You don't even have to be the one drinking – most teenage deaths are the result of crashes caused by impaired drivers.

No matter what the situation, drinking alcohol under the age of 21 is illegal.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Criminal Investigation	561-8063
Vice-narcotics	561-8097
Crime Prevention	561-8062
rcrosier@roanokecountyva.gov	
Rape Aggression Defense	561-8092
RAD@roanokecountyva.gov	
AEP (Street Lights, Outages):	1-800-956-4237

Crime Line	344-8500
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WEBSITES

Roanoke County Police
www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/Police

Commonwealth of Virginia
Terrorism Alert System
www.commonwealthpreparedness.virginia.gov/

National Sheriff's Association
Neighborhood Watch Program
www.usaonwatch.org

RVTV 3 – Roanoke Valley
Television
www.rvtv.org